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U. S. A.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., Feb. 17, 1878

To the Republicans and all fair minded men of the Country:

The peculiar position in which I have been placed by the enemies of the Republican party, and the inveterate traitors to the Union in this State of Louisiana must be pleaded as my excuse for addressing you. As the vilest calumnies, unsupported by a particle of sufficient evidence, have been scattered broadcast over the whole country, I deem it a duty to myself, my late associates, and to the great party to which I belong, to send after these calumnies such an antidote, as a few facts in the personal history of the chief conspirators and their tools can supply. When it is known that

FIVE SUCCESSIVE GRAND JURIES
have firmly and positively refused to find a true bill against me, at the high behest of the Attorney-General; and the prosecution against me and my associates is based upon "information," some public interest will attach to the personal character of the informers. The central figure in this conspiracy is that most supple tool of the traitors of Louisiana—

JUDGE WILLIAM R. WHITAKER.

He conspired to defraud the Government of the United States of six hundred thou-

sand (\$600,000) dollars with which he was entrusted as Assistant Treasurer, succeeded in the conspiracy and stands indicted for the felony.

On the 17th day of April, 1877 a *nolle prosequie* was entered in the case. The celebrated declaration of the Nicholls government was made about the same time, the declaration that it was the purpose of that government to allay anxiety and discountenance all attempts from whatever source, to prosecute persons for political offenses. Judge Whitaker has conducted himself in the late trial of General Anderson, as though he had undertaken a contract with the Democratic party to do their dirty work, and receive as his reward full rehabilitation into their society. He stated to several persons, and to lawyers of high standing before the trial of Anderson, that the Jury was *packed* for the purpose of his conviction. He stated further that no motion having for its object the removal of the cause from his jurisdiction, would have his sanction. That all motions for that object would be overruled. Judge Whitaker was elevated from the Criminal Dock, to do the dirty work of the party that is now controlling him.

NINE OF THE JURORS

in the Anderson trialswore that they were prejudiced against the prisoner, yet they were forced to serve. Two of them had declared openly that Anderson ought to

be hung. During the greater part of the trial Judge Whitaker was in a beastly state of intoxication.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OGDEN

is an elder in the Presbyterian church. He, too, was aware of the fact that the jury was packed, and aided and assisted in the nefarious scheme by which the packing was accomplished. He said he intended to force the trial because he had his jury prepared for conviction—that he kept Littlefield concealed in his room, to prevent his testimony being taken on Anderson's trial. This Attorney General is wholly unreliable as a sworn officer. He has speculated upon the collection of taxes. He attempted to force the Grand Jury last summer to find bills of indictment against the Returning Board. Appeared before the Grand Jury and insulted witnesses, and threatened them with incarceration if they refused to swear exactly what he desired. Failing to procure such evidence from the witnesses as he wanted, he accompanied the Judge before the Grand Jury, and had him (the Judge) to reprimand the witnesses and threaten them with incarceration, if they did not give such testimony as required by him. The Judge attempted to force the Grand Jury to find a true bill to satisfy the wants and wishes of the Attorney General against the Returning Board, but finding all their extraordinary efforts futile, they

were compelled to fall back upon the alternative mode of "information."

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL EGAN

is a worthy and pliant tool in the hands of the Attorney General. He stands indicted for murder in his own parish, having assassinated a brother lawyer on account of his success in practice over him.

MR. CHARLES CAVANAC,

the important and reliable witness of this *trio* of villains, Whitaker, Ogden and Egan, is a man of bad reputation for veracity, especially when a political or personal interest is involved. Hundreds of men in this city would not believe him under oath. He holds a prominent position in the City Government although he has denounced the female teachers of the public schools as prostitutes!

WILLIAM R. SMART,

the custodian of the Vernon records, would omit no "lie" that he could utter that would be likely to convict me. During the rebellion he stole my stock, killed my hogs, and poultry, and put the vote to his company if they should kill me, and burn my dwelling over the heads of my family.

A. E. BURK,

another prominent witness, absconded from the little town of Xenia, Clay county, in the State of Illinois, and changed his name from

A. E. BURK to E. A. BURKE.

Debts have followed him here for liquidation over the signature of A. E. Burk, and some of them have been paid by him, thus affirming the fact of his absconding and changing his name.

The names of the jurors that were impannelled for the trial of Andersou and myself were furnished by the Democratic Committee. Their political status, as well as their views, as to the proper punishment was canvassed by the Judge, Attorney General and Democratic Committee before being placed on the panel.

One of the jury commissioners testified before the Court, that the list of jurors placed in the jury box from which talesmen were drawn, after exhausting the panel, was furnished by

THE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

and this fact was known to "Deacon" Ogden, the "assassin" Eagan, and the "pettigagger," Finney.

The returns from Vernon parish were made up in the town of Alexandria, in the parish of Rapides fully eighty (80) miles from where the election was held. And yet the Returning Board are charged with and made responsible for all the changes which it is alleged have been made in these returns since the votes were counted by the Commissioners of election, every one of whom was a Democrat.

The Judge, Attorney General, the As-

sistant Attorney General and the District Attorney, have thrown every obstacle in the way, and used every exertion to prevent us from producing, or having our witnesses, by urging a speedy trial, and have denied every legal right claimed by our attorneys.

R. L. GIBSON

has seen fit on the floor of Congress to calumniate the Returning Board and has attempted a justification of their persecutions. This colored Democratic Representative seems to claim a right to assail the white race because he feels boastingly proud of the commingling of the African with the Caucasian blood in his veins. When I was acting foreman of the United States Grand Jury, in 1874, this colored representative of Louisiana, in the Congress of the Nation, was presented to the Grand Jury, for "violation of election law, fraudulently filling the boxes with tickets, that were never ballotted" and would have been indicted by the Jury, and probaby sent to the penitentiary, but for my leniency and forbearance. The evidence of his guilt, taken before the jury, is yet in the hands of one of its members. The lineage of this Representative without a nationality, can be fully established by many of the old inhabitants of Adams County, Mississippi, as well as by many of his neighbors in the parish of Terrebonne, Louisiana.

These are samples of the principal tools

conviction of the members of the Returning board in the case improperly called the "State of Louisiana vs. J. Madison Wells at. al.," but really and truly is, and should be called, the case of

SAMUEL J. TILDEN VS. RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

It is a contest for the office of President of the United States and the patronage of the Executive Departments of the Federal Government.

It is chiefly managed by David Dudley Field, with the advice and pecuniary assistance of the National Democratic Committee.

A verdict of a packed jury of Louisiana Democrats, procured in the manner above pointed out, will, it is expected be accepted by the people of the United States as a judicial settlement of Mr. Tilden's title to the Presidency. It is a bold and desperate game for a great stake. Myself and colleagues on the Returning Board are merely the outposts or picket guard which they hope to capture, and then they will surprise the garrison if possible, and claim the patronage of the government as

THE SPOILS OF WAR.

In corroboration of this view, I refer you to the movements all along the line of the enemies camp. To the well grounded reports that a large sum of money has been sent here from New York, to be used in the trial; to the fact that the National Democratic Committee has been hastily called together, though no national election is pending. To the fact that several of the officers of the court, including the

ant Attorney-General, and Sheriff, the principal witnesses, several of the jurors and many of the aiders and abettors of the proceedings, are stained with crimes of one sort or another, including treason, murder, larceny, perjury, subornation of perjury, libel, attempting to defraud voters at the polls, and other serious offenses. Few engaged in the prosecution have clean hands, and yet the Democratic National Committee, inspired by the Mephistophilian

DAVID DUDLEY FIELD,

hope by the employment of such tools in place, and in a case, where the other side has no possible chance of a fair trial, or scarcely any to be heard, to make up such a case, as shall enable them to wrench the sceptre from the hands of President Hayes, and give it to the henchman of the democracy.

The eyes of the leaders of the Rebellion are already fixed upon the high places of the Government, which they feel assured are as good as in their possession already, as nothing stands in the way, but

WELLS AND ANDERSON,

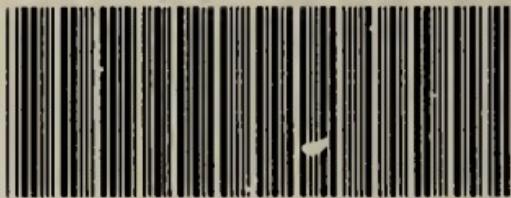
whose conviction they have contracted for and the contractors are hurrying on the work

This is a National, not a personal question. It is a renewal, in insidious guise, of the tremendous conflict of 1876, perhaps of 1861.

It becomes the Republicans of the North to be on their guard and give our Louisiana hirelings to understand, that it is time for them to be quiet, or be prepared for open, determined, and unrelenting war.

J. MADISON WELLS.

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